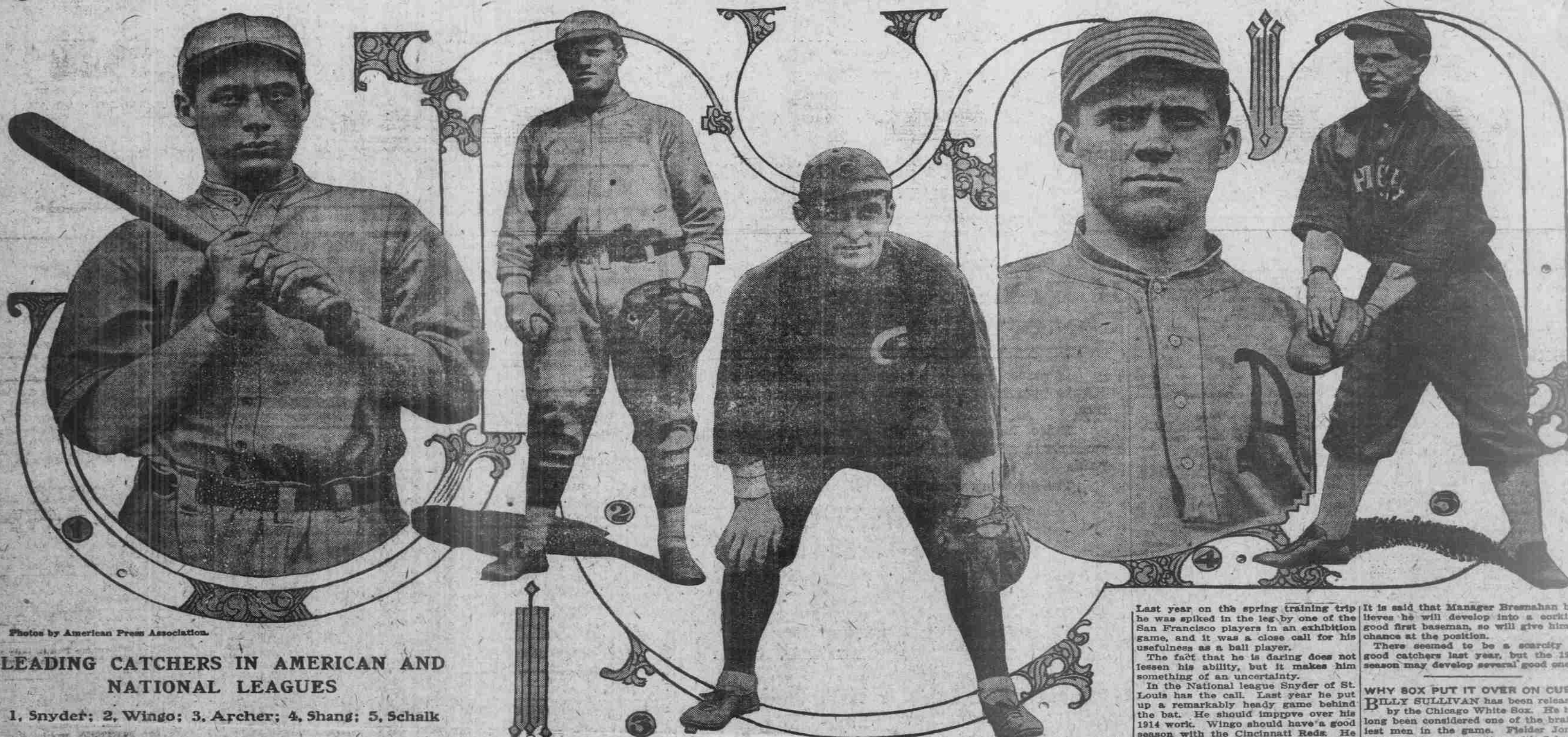


# PICKED UP ON THE SPORTING FIELD

## RAY SCHALK SHOULD LEAD THE CATCHERS



Photos by American Press Association.

### LEADING CATCHERS IN AMERICAN AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

1. Snyder; 2. Wingo; 3. Archer; 4. Shang; 5. Schalk

RAY SCHALK, the star backstop of the Chicago White Sox, will be in a class by himself the coming season. There will be no other catcher in all of the sixteen clubs of the major leagues who can dispute with him the title of being the best catcher in the game. Waldo Schang of the Athletics has shared the title with the south side

here for the past two years, but the performance of the Philadelphia man in the world's series last fall puts him out of the running for consideration this year. George Stallings was to blame for robbing Schang of his glory. The leader of the Braves had been the manager of the Buffalo team when Schang was

a member of that club and knew his weakness. It did not take him long to explode the theory of Waldo's greatness as a catcher when it came to the big series. There is another reason for considering Schalk the best exponent of the catching art. His youth and inexperience

two years ago made him somewhat backward about doing some of the things that he now pulls with every confidence in himself. Two years of heavy work behind the bat as first string man of the Sox have given him all the certainty and initiative that a catcher needs.

If Schalk has a fault it is that he takes too many chances. No one has ever been able to accuse him of showing a streak of yellow in a ball game. In fact, he has always been too reckless. Instead of taking care of himself, he at times needlessly exposes himself to injury and thus weakens his team.

Last year on the spring training trip he was spiked in the leg by one of the San Francisco players in an exhibition game, and it was a close call for his usefulness as a ball player.

The fact that he is daring does not lessen his ability, but it makes him something of an uncertainty.

In the National league Snyder of St. Louis has the call. Last year he put up a remarkably heady game behind the bat. He should improve over his 1914 work. Wingo should have a good season with the Cincinnati Reds. He was second string catcher to Snyder last year, but now that he is with the Reds as first catcher he should shine. Wingo is one of the best in the older organization, but was unfortunate to be on the same team with the best catcher of the National league. Archer of the Chicago Cubs may not be seen behind the bat very much this year.

It is said that Manager Brannan believes he will develop into a cocking good first baseman, so will give him a chance at the position.

There seemed to be a scarcity of good catchers last year, but the 1915 season may develop several good ones.

### WHY SOX PUT IT OVER ON CUBS.

BILLY SULLIVAN has been released by the Chicago White Sox. He has long been considered one of the brainiest men in the game. Fielder Jones tells how in conversation with Johnny Kling, after that upsetting victory of the Sox over the Cubs in the world's series of 1905, Kling said: "How did you fellows happen to beat us? You know we've got it all over you, man for man." "Well," Fielder says he replied, "you see, we had a real catcher."

### Here's a Real \$100,000 Infield

IN these days of bughouse baseball values the Athletics' infield, now broken up, has been referred to as the "million dollar quartet," with the tact understanding that this meant the greatest inner defense of all times. But utter this view sotto voce if in the presence of Cap Anson. Old timers will tell you that the real \$100,000 in-

field was the one that Cap built up and led for several years with such conspicuous success.

This quartet from 1890 to 1893 consisted of Anson at first base, Ed Williamson at third base, Joe Quast at second base and Tommy Burns at shortstop. After that the quartet became even stronger by the addition of the famous Fred Pfeffer, who took the place of Quast at second base.

Harking back is one of the strong points of the veteran. He can't help himself, poor fellow. So Anson indulged in a little of the old time stuff.

There have been hitters who averaged more than Anson for a term of years, but none who passed the twenty year mark and did it. Anson hit .337 average for the twenty-two years of his big league existence. His twenty-second season, in 1897, he batted .303. Think of that! In 1897 he batted .421, the top mark of his hitting.

Cap thinks the pitching of today is comparatively piffing and that the

marvels of his time could have perished around the brilliant of today. Perhaps so, Cap. There's no way of proving that sort of dope.

Lajoie, Wagner and Cobb all top Cap's figure, but the longest term of any of this trio is that of Lajoie, with nineteen seasons. His figure for this period is about .347, but his last season was .255.

But, on the theory that everything else in the world has progressed in the last twenty years, it is a fair assumption that baseball has not stood still. While here and there one of the old "uns may have had something on the modern, it is reasonable to presume that the general average of performance of today is far above that which obtained when Cap was in his prime.

Anson's record offers a gleam of hope to Connie Mack that Lajoie may come back into his hitting form. Anson, in his next to last season, fell down considerably, batting .275. On four other occasions in his twenty-two years of service Anson was under the .300 mark. If Anson could come back, why not Lajoie?

### ACQUISITION OF ONE MAN CAN MAKE PENNANT WINNER

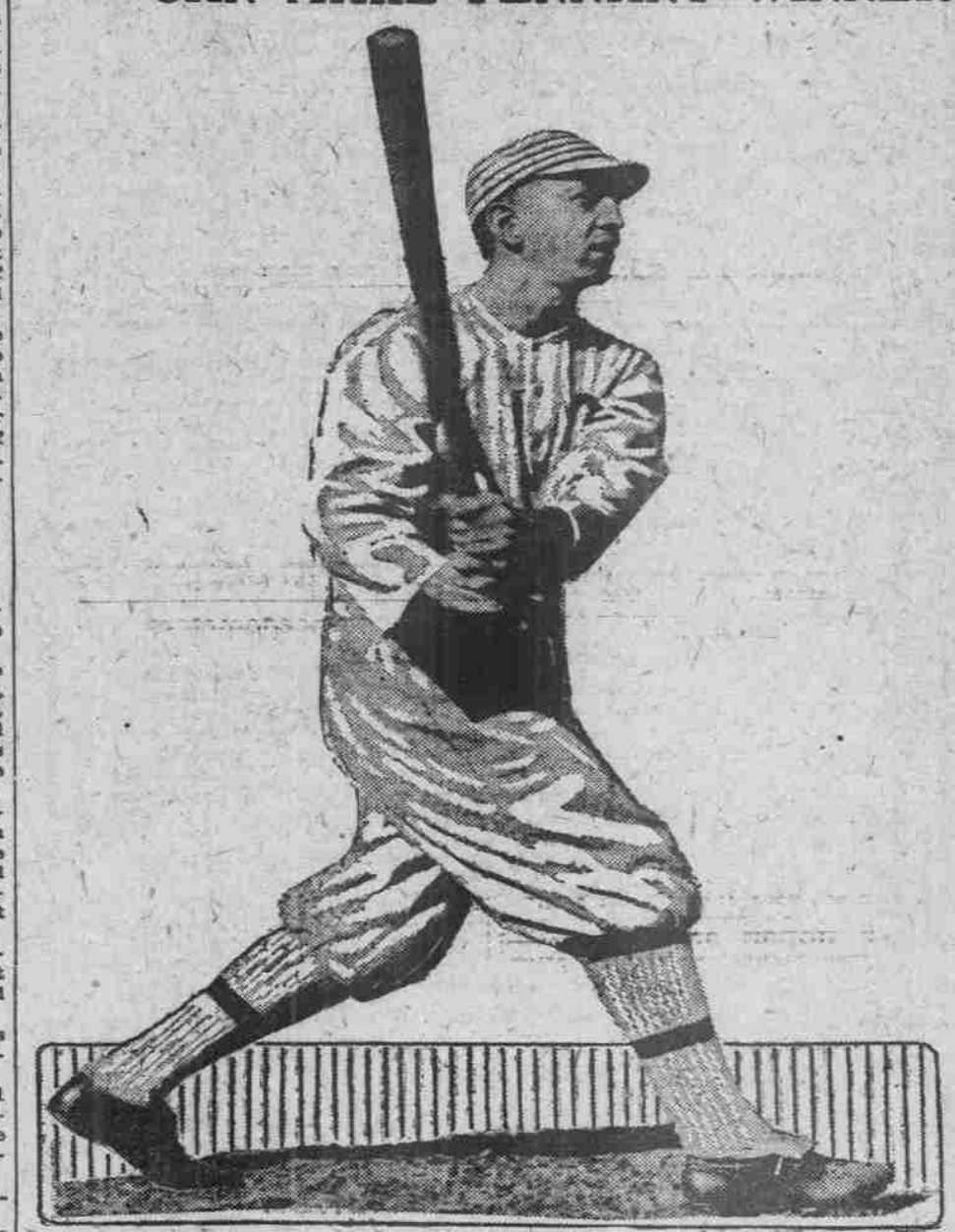


Photo by American Press Association.

EDDIE COLLINS OF THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX.

BRANCH RICKEY, manager of the St. Louis Browns, claims that it is possible to transform a tallender into a pennant winner by the addition of one player. To prove that such a thing is possible he asks that the White Sox of Chicago, who recently obtained the services of Edward Trowbridge Collins, late of Philadelphia, be closely watched during the approaching campaign.

In Rickey's opinion, Collins is likely to make a flag winner of the White Sox, despite the fact that the Sox finished in sixth place in 1914, being

beaten out of fifth place by the Browns by the narrow margin of a single game.

"If I were a betting man," said Rickey recently, "I would feel just as safe holding a ticket on the White Sox as I would with a wager on most any of the heavily backed favorites in the race. It would not surprise me a bit if the Sox won the pennant."

"The White Sox may not have been very impressive last season, but the addition of Collins will make the Chicago team one to be feared. Collins will make the Sox a smart ball club.

He is a brainy ball player himself. That will help quite a bit. His presence on the team will make those about him alert and active."

In picking the White Sox as pennant contenders this season Rickey is taking it for granted that Clarence Pants Rowland, the new manager, will be a success. He met the new Sox leader on his recent trip to Chicago and says he was impressed with President Comiskey's selection.

"Besides being a wonderful hitter and fielder, Collins will supply the Sox with 'gray matter,'" continued Rickey. "The Sox have long been known as a weak hitting aggregation, but with Collins in the lineup it will give them a clean-up man to be relied on. He knows the batters of the National league and will only play for them himself, but will place his teammates too."

"Give me a certain .300 hitter like Collins and I would not hesitate to say that the Browns would figure as a pennant contender. It means a whole lot to a club to have a player like him in its ranks."

### ED GEERS HAS WON A MILLION.

THE following table shows the winnings of Edward F. (Pop) Geers during the period of 1890-1914, year by year. It includes only the money won by horses which he personally drove and does not account for that won by numerous horses trained by him, but upon various occasions driven by other reinsmen:

1890	\$13,175.00
1891	45,147.50
1892	45,550.00
1893	50,800.00
1894	55,285.00
1895	58,310.00
1896	39,850.00
1897	22,680.00
1898	53,800.00
1899	116,370.00
1900	67,997.00
1901	50,255.00
1902	36,564.00
1903	38,124.00
1904	49,725.00
1905	49,330.00
1906	36,301.00
1907	45,444.75
1908	37,752.50
1909	36,927.75
1910	49,626.00
1911	45,385.00
Total for twenty-five years	\$1,178,454.50

### TWO BASEBALL NOSES.

IT is to be regretted that Rollie Zeider jumped the Yanks, for, in addition to having a celebrated union, Rollie also has a world famous nose. In fact, with Rollie and Wild Bill on the same club the Yanks could have boasted the two largest noses in baseball. And both are very sensitive about their nasal organs.

Several years ago, with Donovan pitching, Zeider drove a hot single through the box. When he reached first Rollie tried to kid Donovan and said, "Bill, how did your nose ever escape that drive?" Bill held his peace until Zeider reached third. Then he walked over to him and gave Rollie's nose a careful scrutiny. "Rollie, do you know if I had your nose full of nickels I would retire from baseball," remarked Wild William.

### CAN'T STEAL HUGGINS' SIGNALS.

WHEN Shortstop Walter Maranville of the Braves made the statement that the Boston team experienced less difficulty in stealing the signals of the St. Louis Cardinals than any other team in the National league he set Miller Huggins to thinking, and now the crafty leader of the Cards has devised a set of signals that he believes no signal tipper in the world can interpret.

Huggins absolutely refuses to divulge the medium through which his new signal code is to be flashed to the various players concerned. He declares that he would feel perfectly safe in offering a 1915 model auto to any one not connected with the Cardinals club who can detect the new signals and interpret their meaning.

### THORPE MAY BE A REGULAR

JIM THORPE, the Indian, may be a regular member of the New York Giants this season. If Thorpe can continue to hit as he



Photo by American Press Association.

JIM THORPE.

has done in the practice games he has at least an even chance of starting the National league race as guardian of Harry Hemphreys' short fence.



Photo by American Press Association.

MOLLA BJURSTEDT.

holm and has taken several titles in continental hard court competitions, her victory practically gave her the world's championship in that variety of tennis.

### Shanks Has Interesting Career

THERE'S not a fan in the country who, gazing on Howard Shanks, Washington's outfielder, now, would believe that only five years ago he was told that he could live no more than a few weeks and that he would die a victim of consumption. Shanks is now one of the star outfielders of the American league, a husky lad, with one of the best throwing arms in the game.

Shanks has performed much like the Federal league. He was pronounced almost dead, but accomplished a vigorous comeback.

Back in 1910 Shanks was outfielding with Liverpool in the old O. P. while Canton and Akron were fighting tooth and nail for the pennant. At the close of the season he took himself to a medical gent, who hammered his chest, listened to the working of his bellows and then shook his head sorrowfully.

"My boy, you ain't got more than a couple of weeks to live. Prepare for the end." Such was the encouraging ultimatum poured into the young outfielder's ears.

Shanks beat it over to Monaco, Pa.

just across the river from East Liverpool. For some reason he chose to die there.

The examination of Shanks was made at the solicitation of the Pittsburgh club, which thought a lot of Shanks' skill, but was skeptical about his general health. When the doctor's report was submitted the Pirates, of course, gave up all thought of snatching Shanks.

Shanks went over to the Pennsylvania town prepared to die. Early in the spring Bill Phillips, manager of the East Liverpool team, nearly collapsed when he got a letter from Shanks asking when and where he should report for spring training.

When Phillips recovered his equilibrium he wrote Shanks to report as once. Shanks did, looking huskier and stronger than ever.

"Either that doc didn't know his business or Monaco is some health resort," said Shanks.

Shanks had a good season in 1911 with East Liverpool, went to Youngstown in 1912 and graduated from the minors the next season, going to Washington, where he has been since.

### Welsh Lacks Kick; That's Why He's Busy

NO matter what you think of Freddie Welsh, you've got to hand it to him.

He has more contenders to reckon with than any other fistie champion has had in recent years.

He doesn't try to rush his opponents and knock them out. He won the title on points and continues to hold it by boxing for points.

He's the superior of about every man at his weight at this style of milling.

Although he cuts less clever men up pretty badly with his constant jabbing, he doesn't harm them much, so nearly all boxers who can score around 135 are anxious to take a chance of landing one good punch on his jaw. They

believe they will escape with a whole skin at his hands and in return may win a championship worth a fortune.

Still Freddie continues to wear the crown at a cocky angle and smiles his way through the world.

Two reasons account for the big crop of contenders—first, there are more good lightweights in the spot light now than ever before; second, Welsh's well known inability to deliver a knockout punch makes all hands from prelin boys to Charley White willing to swap punches with him.

Freddie expects to hold his title as long as he continues to box carefully and play the jabbing game across the boards.